

34 THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE PHILIPPINES

is intemperate is in an overfondness for women and gambling. He is an honest, peaceful, hardworking citizen and possesses the Filipino's dominant trait of hospitality.

Juan lives in a small nipa hut, simply furnished, and with him are his wife and children. As if this were not sufficient, *farientes* (relatives) add themselves to his already large family. One of his dearest possessions is his rooster, which he trains for the coming fight in the cockpit. If he has capital enough, he keeps one or more pigs which are left to roam under the house, and if he is more fortunate, he has as his richest heritage a faithful *carabao*. At night every aperture of the house will be closed to keep out the evil spirits.

Juan de la Cruz, the typical Filipino, is the rock on whose solid character Filipino nationalism is grounded.

The Filipino women are comely. In youth they are often young goddesses, erect in carriage, with clean golden-brown skin, dark flashing eyes, and possessed of black tresses long enough to reach the ground. The beauty of the women is not confined to the upper classes—those of the lower strata also have it. One of the prettiest girls I have ever seen was the wife of the driver of a public rig in Manila, while in the northern provinces I once accidentally met up with a maid in whose veins flowed the blood of some Yankee adventurer, white, black-eyed, lithe, a veritable Juno. And speaking of the *mestizos* (half-castes), Filipino-Chinese, or Filipino-Spanish, or Filipino-American, they often present pleasing combinations of the good points of both races, creamy complexions, come-hither eyes, light brown hair,

and with more

^T Section read by Mrs. Vicente Lim, President of the
Philippine Federation
of Women's clubs. See Dr. Maria Paz Mendoza-Guazon,
The Development
and Progress of the Filipino Women (1928), and Mary H.
Fee, ^A *Woman's*
Impressions of the Philippines (1912), Ch. x.